



News Release

U.S. Representative Chris Chocola

Second District, Indiana

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

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Chocola Secures AM General, Notre Dame Funding

House approved spending bill not only protects our security, but benefits our local economy

WASHINGTON – Production of AM General’s military Humvee received a major vote of confidence when U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola (R-Ind.) and his colleagues in the House of Representatives agreed to the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations bill today. The bill, passed by a wide, bipartisan margin of 398-19, proposes spending \$577.4 million on the regular and Up-Armor Humvee military vehicle, both manufactured by AM General in Mishawaka, Indiana.

“Hoosier troops in Iraq and Afghanistan put their lives on the line every day,” said Chocola. “It is important that they understand we stand behind them and will provide them with every resource available to fight and win the War on Terror. This bill represents that commitment.”

The Department of Defense Appropriations bill calls for \$363.7 billion in defense spending. Among the highlights of this bill is a \$45.3 billion “bridge fund” for costs associated with operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the global War on Terror, \$84.1 billion to fully fund a 3.1% military pay increase, benefits, and medical programs, and \$577.4 million for purchasing Humvees.

Specifically, the bill includes \$224.2 million for the Army, \$98.9 million for the Marines, and \$16.4 million for the Air Force to purchase Humvees. An additional \$237.7 million is also included in the “bridge fund” for Humvee production, with \$170 million going to the Army, \$65.3 million to the Army Reserve, and \$2.4 million to the Air Force.

Also included in the legislation is \$1.3 million for the University of Notre Dame to conduct advanced research in orthopedic implant design and manufacturing for traumatic injuries. This project is in partnership with Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), and a host of industry and university collaborators including Zimmer Inc., DePuy Inc., Biomet Inc., Purdue University, and the Indiana University Medical School.

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“With the increase in terrorist-type threats to our military personnel on a regular basis, it is clear that orthopedic procedures will unfortunately remain at high levels relative to other types of injury or trauma,” said Chocola. “The research and innovation Notre Dame is pursuing will lead to improved orthopedic devices, faster recovery times, and reduced costs. I’m glad I could help support it.”

The university plans to explore advances in critical areas that currently hinder the development of implant device design and development. Notre Dame will also explore how the human body reacts to orthopedic biomaterials, and utilize that knowledge to develop improved biomaterials.

In early March, Chocola sent a letter to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee requesting the funding for AM General. Chocola and U.S. Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.) jointly requested the funding for the University of Notre Dame.

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